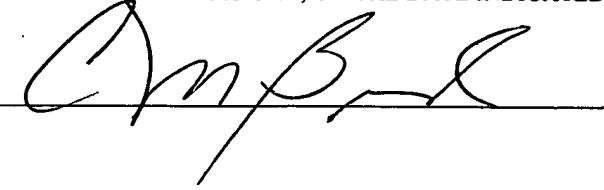


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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY: 

Date: 5/11/04

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:	:	
Ira C. Felkner, <i>et al.</i>	:	
Conf. No.:	8046	: Group Art Unit: 1651
Appln. No.:	10/091,260	: Examiner: Ralph J. Gitomer
Filing Date:	March 4, 2002	: Attorney Docket No.: 61-2U5
Title:	METHODS, COMPOSITIONS AND KITS FOR BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR OF STERILIZATION	

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Response is provided in view of the Restriction Requirement mailed May 3, 2004 (marked "Part of Paper No./Mail Date 22040430"). It is timely filed on May 11, 2004, in advance of the deadline of June 3, 2004 set by the Examiner.

Also included is a Preliminary Amendment. It is requested that the Examiner examine the claims in the amended form.

A second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed with this Response.